(b) if so, the salient features of the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has signed an agreement with M/s. Ahwaz Steel Complex, a unit of National Iranian Steel Company, for providing technical services and consultation to M/s. Ahwaz Steel Complex. KIOCL and the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for providing jointly the requisite technical assistance to the Iranian Steel Plant.

Pending Steel Plants of Gujarat

8428. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of steel plant in the State of Gujarat is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in according the approval; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, 'iron and steel' industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for public sector and has also been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required to set up a steel plant. No proposal is pending with Union Government for setting up a steel plant in Gujarat. As per the State Government of Gujarat, no such proposal is pending with them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up Steel Plant with Foreign Collaboration in Gujarat

8429. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Steel Plant in the State of Gujarat with any foreign collaboration in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the foreign company; *and*

(c) the estimated cost and the capacity of the proposed plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, Iron and Steel' industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for public sector and has also been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing except for certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required to set up a steel plant. As per State Government of Gujarat, the State Government has no proposal for setting up a steel plant with any foreign company collaboration in the near future.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Release of CRC Coils to Traders/ Firms by SAIL

8430. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have released pickled CRS coils to traders/firms in Delhi and Bombay at a price of non-pickled CRC coils during the last five years;